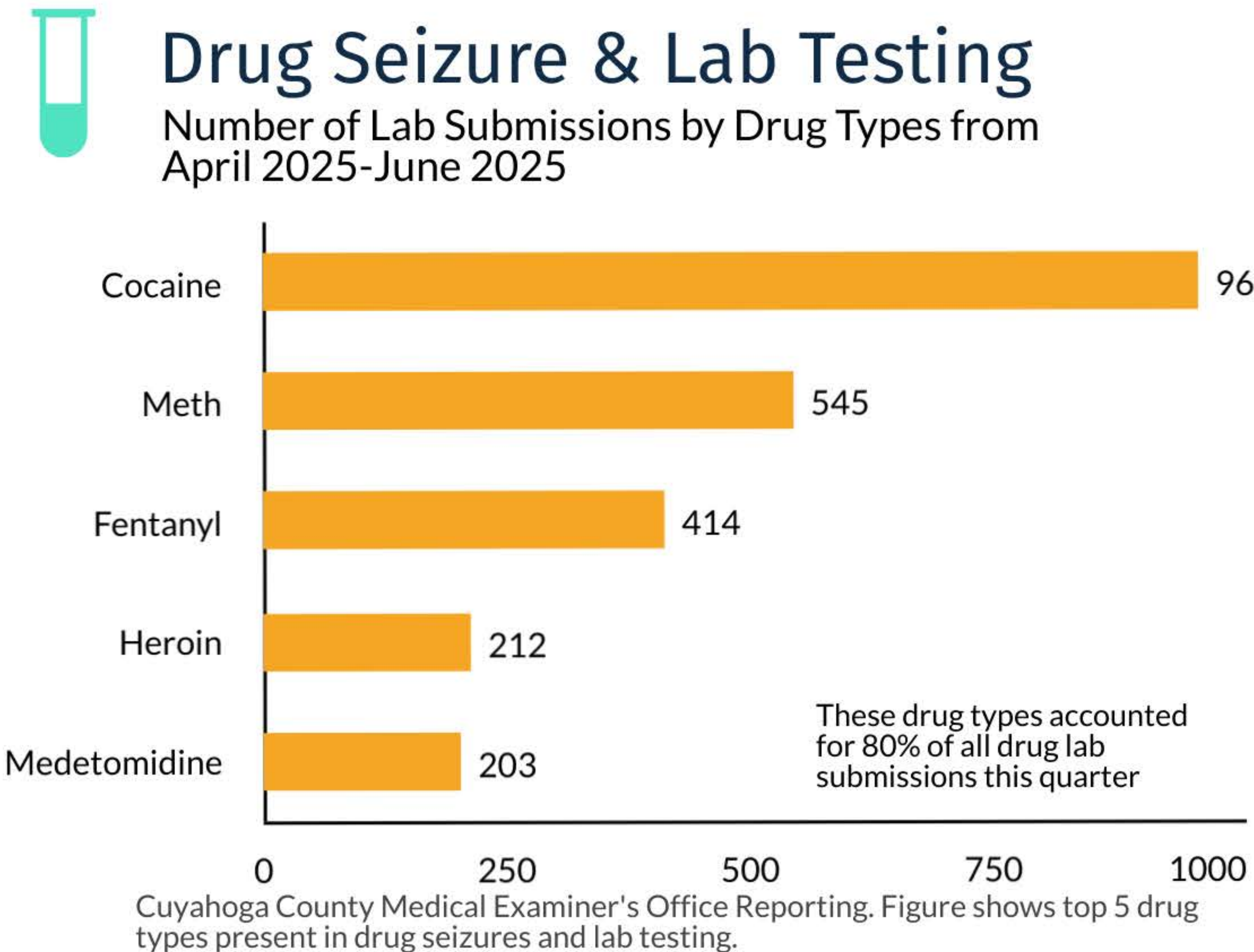
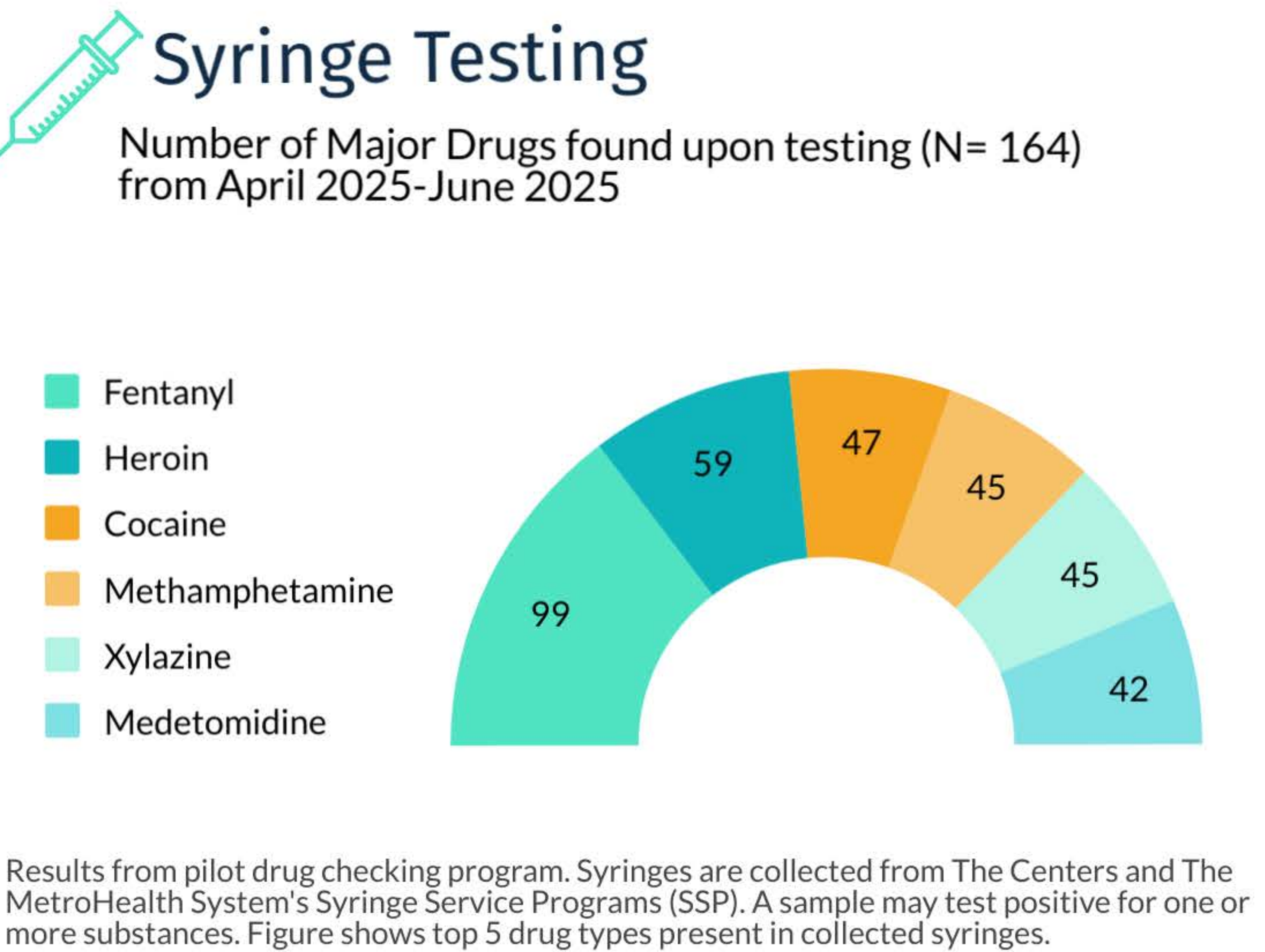
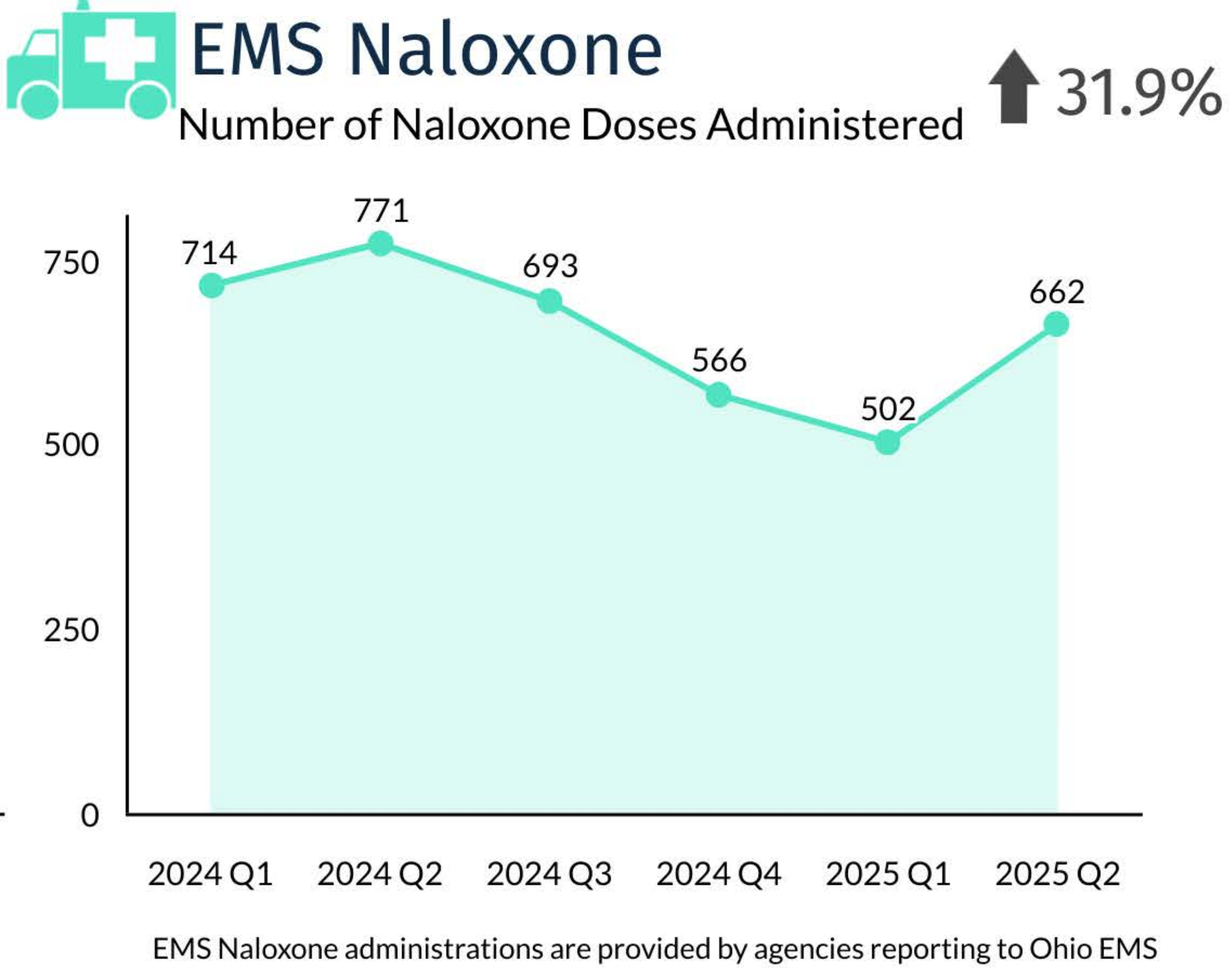
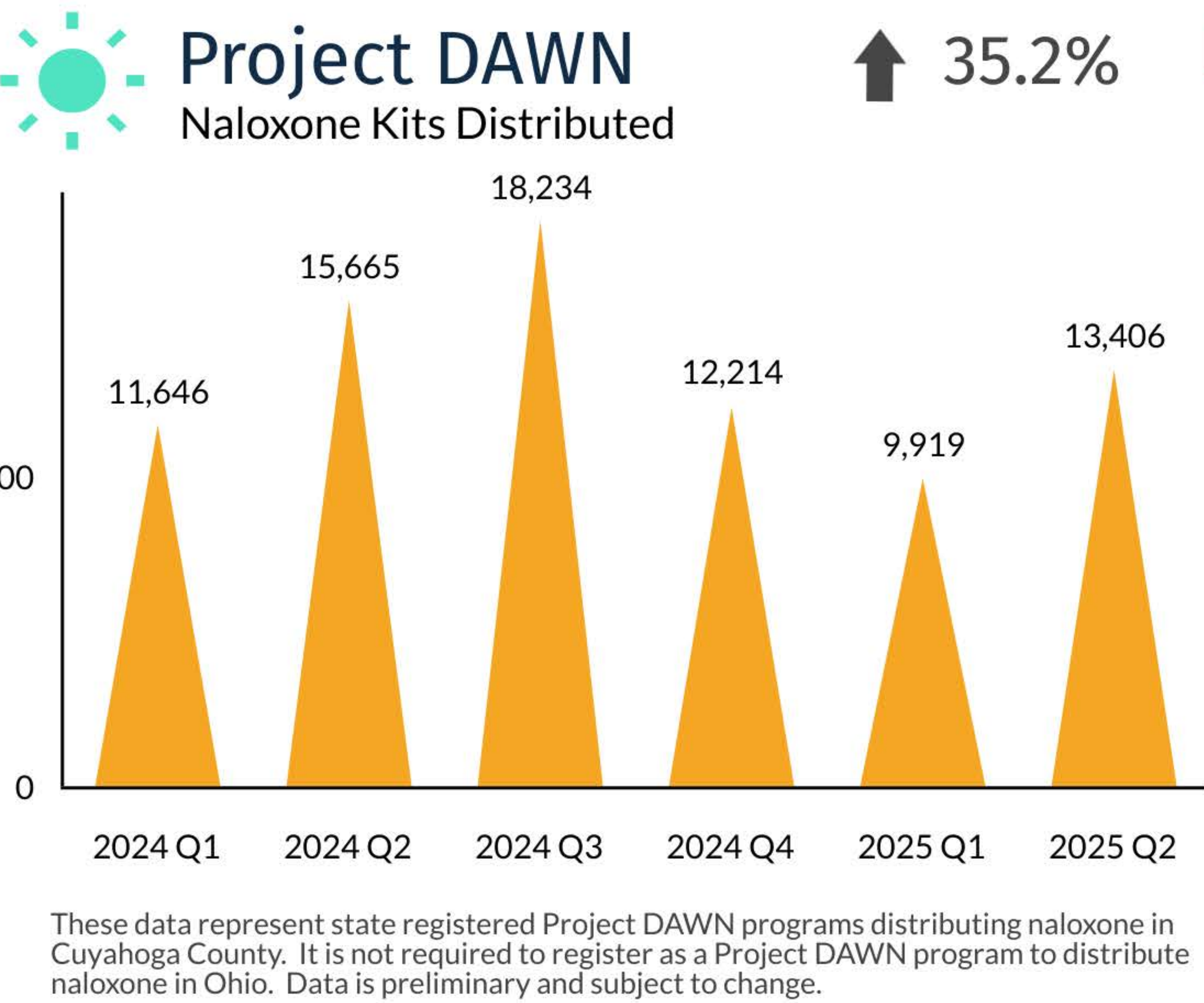
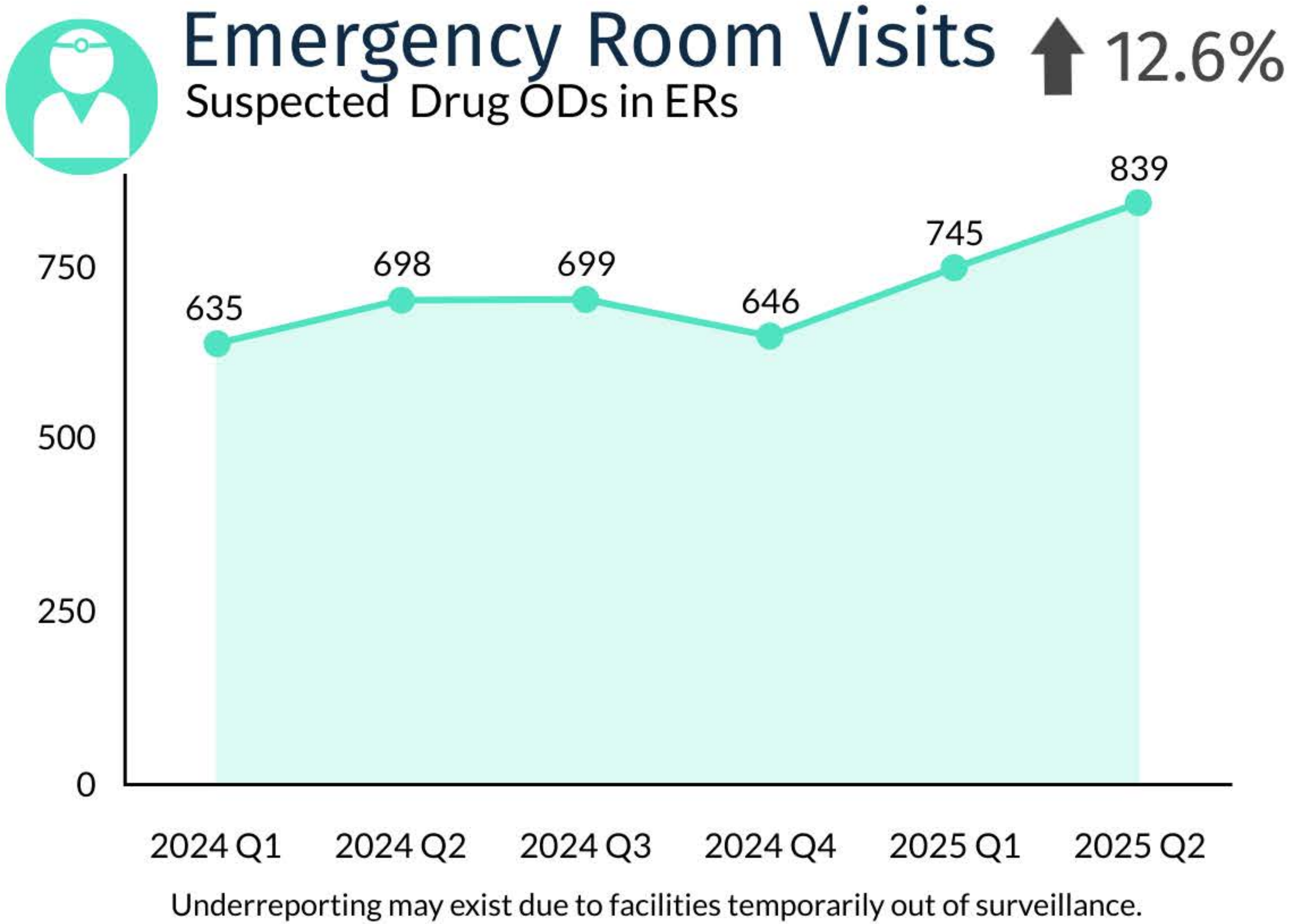
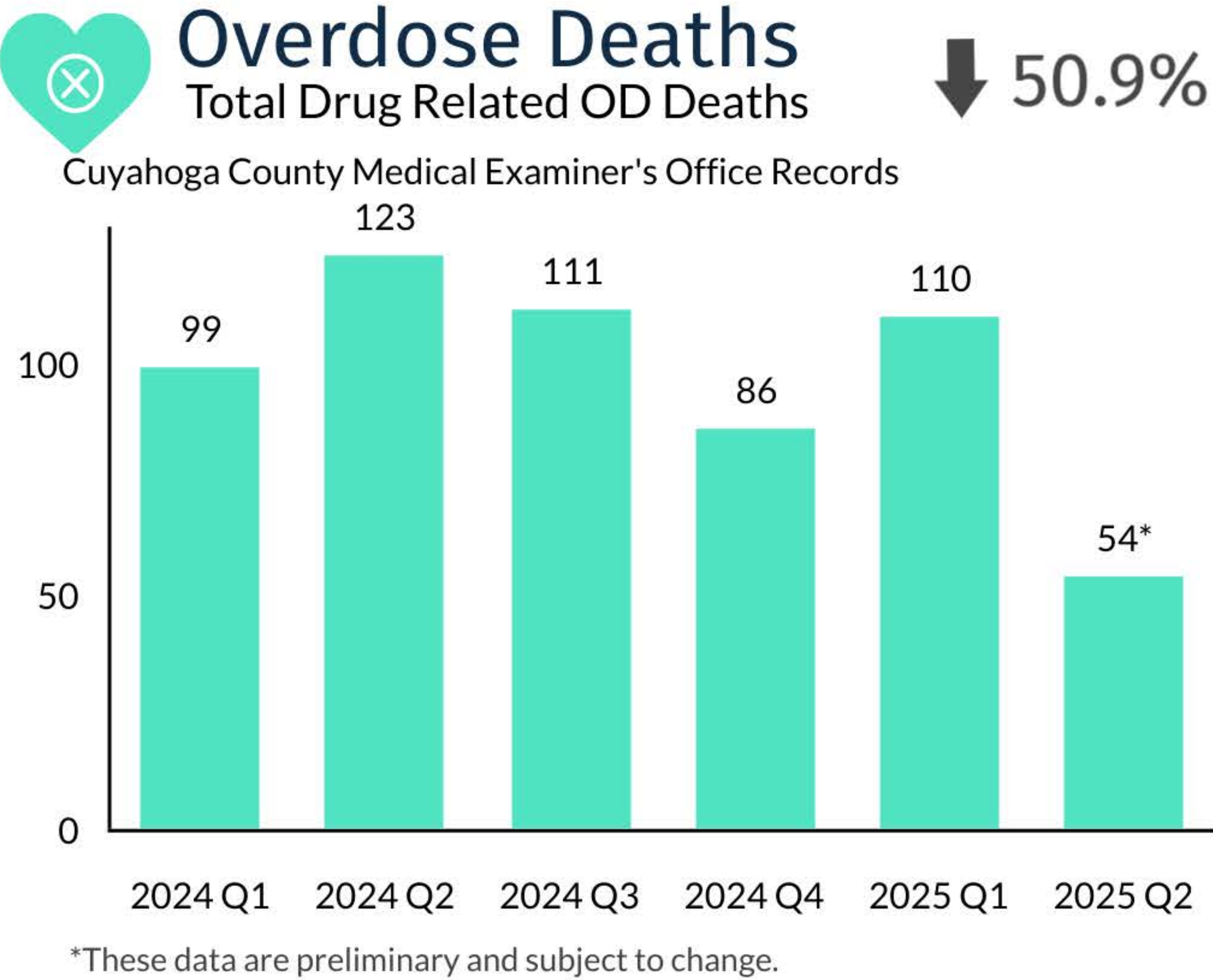




Overdose Data to Action Cuyahoga County, Ohio

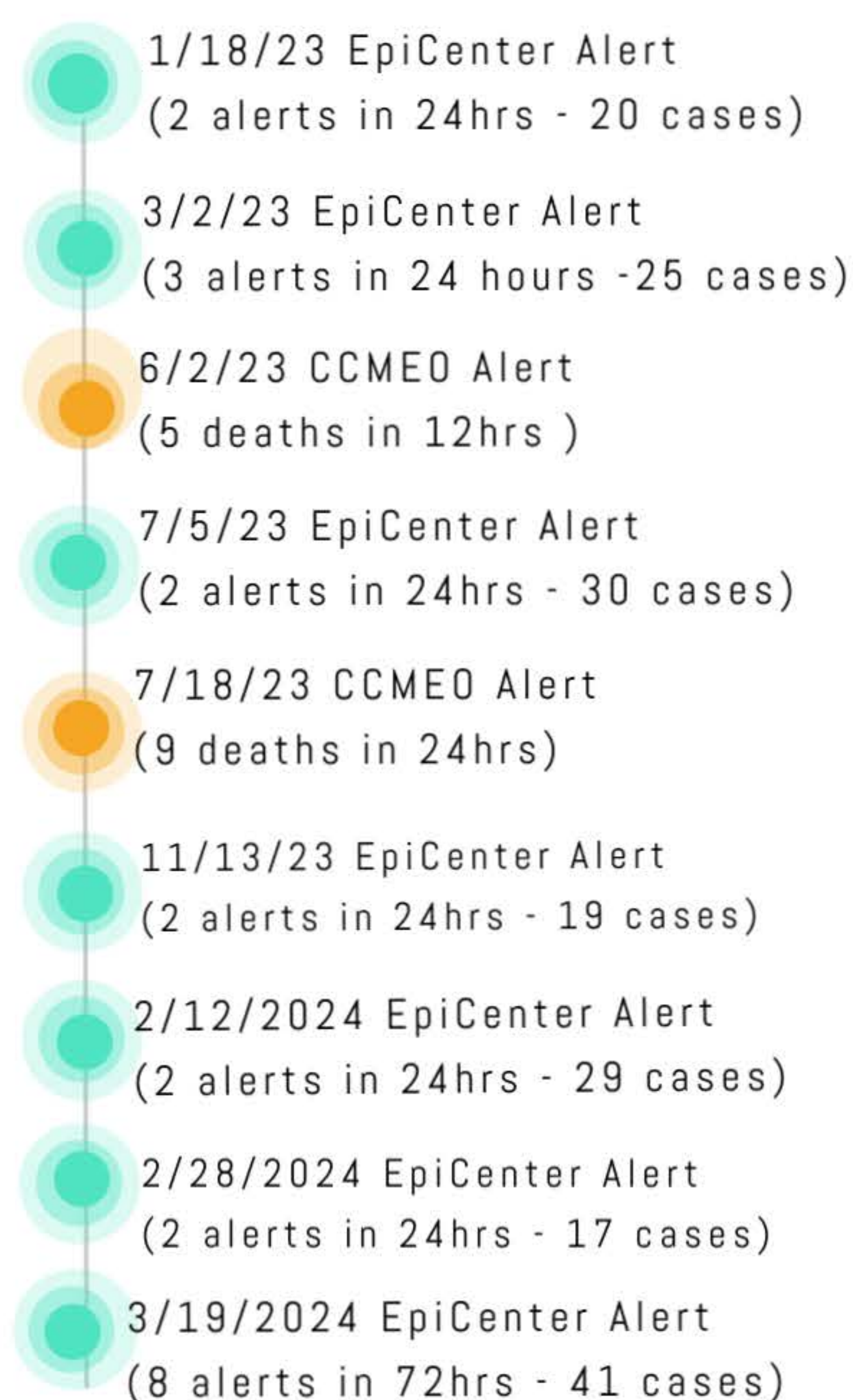
Overdose data surveillance is intended to generate insight to drive more effective prevention and response activities by providing timely dissemination of drug overdose related trends.





Overdose Alert Periods

(January 2023- Present)



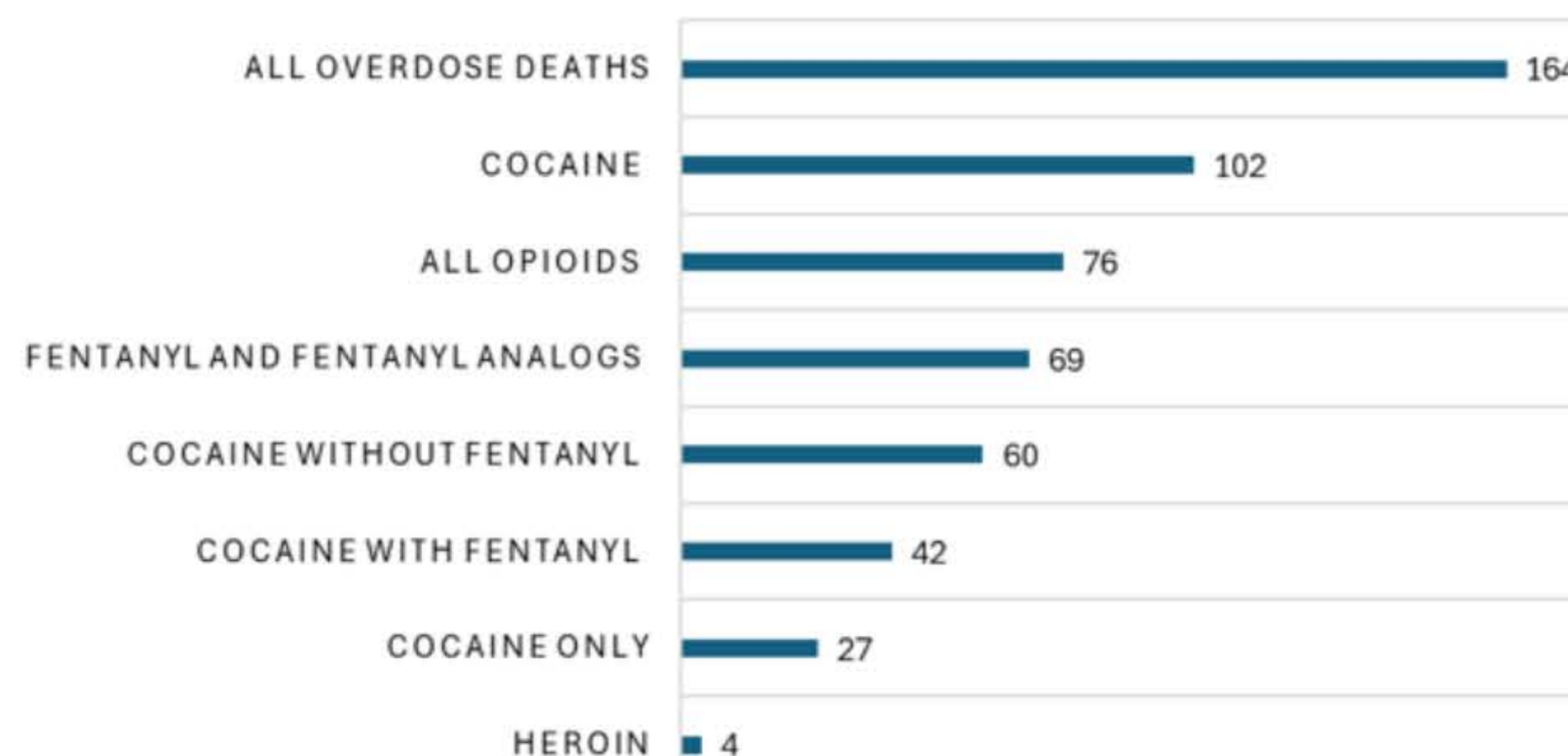
The overdose alert periods are a combination of non-fatal overdose anomaly (spike) detections reported by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, also known as EpiCenter Alerts, and fatal overdose public health alerts issued by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, shown on a timeline.



Highlight

2025 Cocaine-Involved Overdose Death Trends

DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS, MIDYEAR 2025*



*Drug categories are not mutually exclusive, as most deaths are attributed to multiple drugs. The "cocaine" category includes all cocaine-involved overdose deaths, including polydrug mixtures. While, the "cocaine only" category refers to overdose deaths where cocaine was the only drug listed in the cause of death

For this first time since 2015, cocaine has surpassed opioids as a leading cause of death drug in Cuyahoga County. From 2024 to 2025, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office saw a 50% decrease in fentanyl-related overdose deaths and a 10% increase in cocaine-related overdose deaths. Both the decrease in fentanyl-involved overdoses and increase in cocaine-involved overdoses have contributed to a shift in demographics. White decedents experienced a 6% decrease in overdose deaths, while Black decedents experienced a 6% increase, which is largely driven by Black males aged 55 and older.

These trends continue to be closely monitored and may indicate a return to substance use trends seen prior to the opioid epidemic, as stimulant waves often follow periods of high opioid overdose. As there is no cocaine antidote comparable to naloxone for opioids, a deeper focus on prevention, education and treatment efforts is critical.



Important Findings / Trends

Increases or decreases are from Q1 2025 to Q2 2025 unless otherwise stated.
Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Quarter over Quarter:

Overall, fatal overdoses decreased by 50.9% over the last quarter.¹ The number of persons presenting to emergency departments for suspected drug overdose increased by 12.6%.²

Opioid prescribing data is not currently available for this quarter.³ There was a 35.2% increase in the number of Project DAWN naloxone kits distributed in quarter 2 of 2025.⁴ EMS naloxone administrations increased by 31.9%.⁵

From April to June 2025, 164 syringes were tested to identify what major drugs were present. Fentanyl (99) was the most prevalent, followed by heroin (59), cocaine (47), methamphetamine (45), xylazine (45), and medetomidine (42).

From April to June 2025, cocaine ranked highest in the number of lab submissions (962) to the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensics Science Lab (CCRFS), followed by methamphetamine (545). Lab submissions of cocaine decreased by 10%, fentanyl decreased by 0.5%, methamphetamine increased by 25%, heroin increased by 20%, and medetomidine increased 11% from last quarter. Quarter 2 of 2025 was the first appearance of medetomidine in the top five.

Statement from CCMEO:

The CCMEO projects a 10% decrease in drug overdose deaths in 2025. The decrease in both fentanyl deaths and seizures is driving the decrease in all overdose deaths. This is a welcomed decrease from years past, however numbers still remain high. Note there has been a 10% increase in cocaine-involved overdoses in 2025 thus far (see Highlight).

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
<https://www.ccbh.net/overdose-data-dashboard/>

This product is supported by Overdose Data to Action: LOCAL funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Data Sources and Notes:

- 1 Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office Updates at <https://www.cuyahogacounty.gov/medical-examiner/resources/overdose-statistics>
- 2 Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Drug Overdose Among Cuyahoga County Residents. EpiCenter. Ohio Department of Health. Data used for this report is accessed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Similar data is available to the public at <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/Suspected-OD-Dashboard2>
- 3 Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Available <https://www.ohiopmp.gov/County.aspx>
- 4 Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Section - Project DAWN Monthly Distribution Logs. Analyzed by Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
- 5 Ohio EMS. Naloxone Administration Doses, by County. "Naloxone Watch" Available <https://www.ems.ohio.gov/#gsc.tab=0>